

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /052 W

-----080935Z 069273 /15

O R 080909Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1879

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: KS, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK HOLDS INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ACCORDING TO BLUE HOUSE REPORTER KIM CHUNG-NAM, PRESIDENT PAK HELD TWO HOUR UNPUBLICIZED CONFERENCE WITH BLUE HOUSE PRESS CORPS ON MARCH 2. ALTHOUGH INVOKED TO COVER FAMILY MATTERS, MEETING MOVED TO OTHER ISSUES INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTER SAID PAK MAINTAINED THAT HE WAS FIRM IN HIS BELIEF THAT YUSHIN CONCEPT AND BASIC EMERGENCY MEASURES SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF YIELDING TO "OUTSIDE" PRESSURES ON SUBJECT. PAK CLAIMED HE WAS DISTURBED THAT LOCAL DISSIDENT LEADERS WERE IN CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE (PRESUMABLY AMERICAN) PERSONS AND WERE DEPENDING ON THESE OUTSIDERS TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM. REPORTER KIM SAID WHETHER TRUE OR NOT, PRESIDENT APPARENTLY BELIEVED IT TO BE TRUE.

2. PRESIDENT WAS NOT ALTOGETHER HARD LINE, HOWEVER, ACCORDING KIM HE DID INDICATE THERE COULD BE AN "EFFORT TO EASE DOMESTIC SITUATION." REPORTER KIM SUGGESTED TO EMBOFF THAT EFORT COULD BE, FOR EXAMPLE, MINOR ADJUSTMENT TO ELECTION LAW. REPORTER ALSO OPINED THAT PRESIDENT MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE  
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TO MEDIATION AND COMPROMISE WITH SUCH ANTI-GOVERNMENT FIGURES AS KIM TAE-CHUNG AND YUN PO-SUN, IF MEDIATION WAS PERFORMED BY DOMESTIC PERSON. JOURNALIST SAID HE HIMSELF WAS IMPRESSED WITH FACT PRESIDENT HAD IGNORED YUN'S PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO MARCH 1 AS WELL AS ONE ALLEGEDLY GIVEN SAME TIME BY MRS. KIM TAE-CHUNG ALTHOUGH BOTH HAD SERIOUSLY BREACHED EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE KIM IS A STRONG NATIONALIST AND  
CONSIDERED BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO PRESIDENT'S OVERALL DOMESTIC  
POLICIES, HIS COMMENTS TO US HAVE PROVEN RELATIVELY  
OBJECTIVE AND TRUSTWORTHY TO DATE.  
STERN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009